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## Newsletter Number 35 11 December 2009



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

.. a huge thanks to PTA and helpers for an awesome disco.  
.. to those who helped out with this week's senior Touch Tournament and the Year 8 Fun Day.  
.. to the Duckmanton's for providing plastic for this week's junior water slide.  
... to those parents who helped out with this week's room 6 camp and to Miss Bevin for her meticulous organisation.  
... To Teresa Dunn and Mary Sissons for helping Donna Cates with the library stocktake this week, your valuable time is really appreciated

### People of the Week

.. The junior school for their great "Wild Things" dramatic presentation.  
.. Andrew and Eleanor Gleeson for best team player awards at the 2009 St Johns prize giving. An awesome achievement. Well done!  
.. Andrew Martin for winning the Waimate and Whangarei A & P Young Handler of the Year and Reserve Champion Awards (not to mention a host of other ribbons). Well done Andrew!  
.. Brad Martin for winning Best Dressed Junior - and other ribbons.  
.. Amber Burnett for qualifying for the 2010 NZ Rock n Roll Nationals.  
.. Room 6 for their awesome behaviour and teamwork at THE Farm camp this week. Apparently a record was set for raft making and sailing. And MISS BEVIN whose work during camp has been deeply appreciated by all.  
.. Former students, now at Kamo High School, for their achievements at this year's KHS prize giving - Adelle Cottle is now Head Girl, Erin Lovell won Dux and a host of other former students who won academic honours and Deans' awards (too many to mention). We are very proud of these students and congratulate them on their hard earned successes.

### Out of Zone Enrolments 2010

For those interested, the process for out of zone enrolments, and the number of places available for ballot (for out of zone students) will be advertised in The Northern Advocate at some time during the next week or so. A revised zone description and map are available from the office on request. Any person interested in an out of zone enrolment application should contact the school next week or Kevin on [principal@matarau.school.nz](mailto:principal@matarau.school.nz) during the school holiday period. The final date for out of zone enrolments will be in The Advocate.

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

**Maggie Dixon**  
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## *Parent Helpers Morning Tea*

*Parents / caregivers who have helped at school in any way this year are invited to a morning tea to be held in the school hall on Tuesday 15 December starting 10:30am.*

*This is our chance to thank you for the difference you have made to our school. To help with catering please give Helen a call on Monday if you think you might be in attendance.*

### Final day - early finish

A reminder that the final day of school is 17 December. **School finishes at mid-day with buses running approximately 3-3.5 hours early.** Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up at this earlier time please. School will recommence on 3rd February 2010. Term 1 2010 finishes 1 April.

### Reports

These were issued today. The report contains statements on your child's effort and attainment in key learning areas and with respect to their social skills and work habits. These statements are summative - meaning that they have been formed after consulting multiple sources of information gathered over the course of the year. They also incorporate teacher judgements based on literally thousands of interactions with your child over the course of the year.

Although this report is principally for you, please feel free to share it with your child. Draw attention to their successes and perhaps identify some areas for future focus.

Finally, remember that no single method of reporting should stand alone. Impressions need to be weighed against those from other methods of reporting including early and mid year interviews, portfolios, student achievement data and so forth. Please congratulate your child on our behalf for the gains they have made.

### Prizegiving

Please keep the evening of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December free for our annual prize giving. This is an opportunity to celebrate achievement across a wide range of domains. The evening will start 6.30pm and will conclude approx 8.30pm with a supper. Grandparents are welcome. Families are asked to contribute two plates for the supper.

All children are expected at prize giving, although parents of 5 year olds may keep them at home (or arrange an alternative) if they wish.

**If you are able to help with cups of tea and coffee at the end of the prize giving please give Helen a call - Thanks!**

### Missing Library Books/Overdue Library Books

As a result of our library stock take, we have discovered that a number of books are missing, and unaccounted for. As you can appreciate, lost books eat into our funds & reduce the resources available to others. We are holding a book amnesty, and would greatly appreciate the return of any books which you may have, no questions asked. Please take the time to search schoolbags, corners of bedrooms, under beds, bookcases etc. Invoices for overdue books will be sent out Monday - please arrange payment by Thursday, or ignore if you return the book on Monday.

### Team Athletics Day

Please accept this cordial invitation to share our Team Athletics Day with us on Monday 14 December. Events get under way at 9:20 on the lower field, with field events completed by 12:25 and track events by around 2:40. The emphasis for this day is participation and teamwork, certificates for overall placings in our lunchtime track and field competitions will be presented at the end of the day, time permitting.

*Special thanks to Michele Blagrove from Maggie Dixon  
and Alastair Rickey Decorating  
who are sponsors of this year's athletics.*

### Classes for 2010

Class lists are now displayed on the hall notice board.

### 2010 Year 5 & 6 Camp (Lonsdale Park)

This camp is scheduled for 16 to 19 February. As the cost will be \$130 per child we wish to give early notice so families can put a little aside. We do keep costs as low as possible and, as always, are more than happy to discuss payment arrangements. Miss Bevin and Mrs Witte will keep you posted as details are confirmed. Looks as though some awesome activities are planned.

### Year 8 Leaving Books

A number of children have not yet dropped their leaving books in to school. As these are presented at prize giving could we have these on Monday please.

### PMP

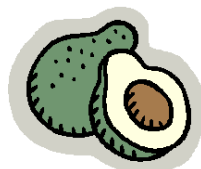
Please note that there will be no PMP next week. Thanks so much to those who have helped out this year.

### Matarau School Holiday Programme

The school holiday programme was a great success over the last holidays. We plan to offer the programme for a couple of weeks this holiday break if we can get enough parents and families involved. Likely start date 11 January for 3 weeks. For a donation of time, energy and a small charge (all proceeds go to the school) the kids and adults have a great time using the school facilities. We need indications of numbers of children, dates attending and parent supervision availability by the end of November. All those families who wish to be involved during the Christmas break please contact Chris Sapwell 4335099.

### After School Care 2009

The last day for ASC for 2009 will be Wednesday 16 December. Any questions please contact Karina on 4356565 or 0272062224. Final invoices will be sent next week - prompt payment will be appreciated. Thanks to Karina for providing this service in 2009.



### Avocados - Gold coin donation to PTA fund-raising

On Monday children will receive a bag of avocados as part of a PTA fund-raising initiative courtesy of the Snushall family. The PTA would be grateful for a gold coin donation if you can afford this. Please advise the office on Monday morning if you would rather your child did not bring a bag home.

Thanks to Tony and Kirsty Snushall.

### After School Care 2010

Parents who indicated they will / might use the A.S.C. programme in 2010 will have received information on this programme last week. This information includes what you can expect from this programme, a schedule of costs, enrolment forms and a fees schedule. If you did NOT receive a pack (or if you have only just decided that you may use this programme) please contact our school office urgently and we will get one out to you. As this is a WINZ (OSCAR) approved programme the government subsidy can be substantial - recommend you take a look. To the best of my knowledge the franchise for this area is still available. Further information can be found on [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) where you can also enrol your child on line.

**Please return enrolment forms to school early next week to enable SKIDS to get things up and running.**

### Lost Property

Please take some time to look through our lost property bin (outside room 5) before next Thursday. All items not claimed will be donated to charities at the end of next week. Thanks.

### For Sale

Surplus to current school requirements: The NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary - 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, \$19 each. Ideal for students at High School or for home use. If you would like one, please see Helen in the office.

### Chocolates

There are still a variety of chocolates available for sale, if you are able to sell a few more please see Helen or Brenda at the office. If you have not already returned your money can you please ensure this is done.

### During the holidays

Please keep an eye on the school and give the police a call if you notice anything suspicious. Generally we don't fare too badly from holiday vandalism but your vigilance in this regard is our best insurance policy.

### Swimming pool

Will be up and running at the commencement of Term 1 2010. Keys may be hired once school has started at \$25 per key.

### Staffing for 2010

I am pleased to announce staffing for next year as follows. Special thanks is owed to our Board of Trustees which has, again, recognised the importance of investing in low class numbers.

Room 1	Mrs Bruce	Year 1
Room 2	Second NE class - probable start beginning of term 3	Year 1
Room 3	Mrs Williams (Grace)	Year 1 / 2
Room 4	Miss Hewitt	Year 2
Room 5	Mrs Abbott / Mrs Sloper	Year 3
Room 6	Mr Schuster	Year 3 / 4
Room 7	Mrs Burgin	Year 3 / 4
Room 8	Miss Bevin	Year 5 / 6
Room 9	Mrs Witte	Year 5 / 6
Room 10	Mrs Williams (Julie)	Year 7 / 8
Room 11	Mrs Donaldson	Year 7 / 8
Room 12	Mr Delemare	Year 7 / 8

I am pleased to announce that our wonderful support staff remains as in 2009.

### Community Notices

Sunblock Special - Kamo Pharmacy will offer a 10% discount on the purchase of any product from the DAY-LONG sunblock range to any one mentioning the school's name (till the end of December). A parent has added her testimonial on purchasing this week, the Day-Long sunblock does work!

Soccer Holiday Programme - 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December, 9.00-2.00pm daily, Tikipunga Sports Park, \$30 per day (family discount available), 6-14yrs. For more information contact Cheryl on 437 7294 or

[www.unitedsoccer1.org.nz](http://www.unitedsoccer1.org.nz)

Rock Rave - Northland Rock Hoppers fundraiser for outdoor climbing safety & development. 6.00pm-9.00pm Saturday 12 December. \$15 per ticket. Dancing, climbing, abseiling. Spot prizes.

Swimsmart Holiday Swimming Lessons - A two week block course of swimming lessons is available from the 28<sup>th</sup> December to the 8<sup>th</sup> January (excluding the weekend). They consist of one 25 minute lesson each day at the same time. Cost \$110 for the two weeks or \$60 for one week. Enquiries phone Gayle 4595323.

Water Deliveries - "Best price in town", ph Northend Contractors, Alan or Cherie 435 2662.

Caravan - Chevron liteweight 1300. Excellent condition .. \$7,000 ono. Phone 4335607

Hillman Hunter - 1977. Collectors. Classic car, 2 owners. Mint condition. \$4,000 ono. Phone 4335607

Livestock - 5 X ewe lambs Coopworth X cross \$60 each. Phone 4335607

### Final thought

Prize Giving is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the year, as well as acknowledging those children who have achieved exceptionally well in a variety of domains. These children model some of the attributes we would like to see in all children, and perhaps even in ourselves. We invite you to enter the spirit of prize giving and to celebrate a special moment EVERY time a child goes onto the stage.

We owe these kids a great deal for the examples they set - please join with us to celebrate these achievers.



### A Final Special Thanks to

Our sponsors for their generous Contributions to our School  
Staff for efforts, beyond the call of duty  
Board and PTA for services to the school community  
Children for striving to attain your goals (and for supporting others towards the same end)  
To the many parents etc. who have given their time to help in classrooms, camp, sports days, transport  
To those who have given us the benefit of the doubt when things didn't quite turn out right.

**Remember** .. 12:00 o'clock finish on Thursday 17 December. Buses will leave at this earlier time. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time.

### Finally

Thank you parents for your support and good will over 2010 and for entrusting your children's education to us for another year. This is a responsibility that we take very seriously. We know we make mistakes but we do our best to be the best that we can be. Thank you to the many ways in which you daily demonstrate your trust, loyalty and good will.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Best wishes to those who end their association with us this year - we hope you will reflect positively on your period of involvement with our school and wish you all the very best for the future.

Kevin Trewhella,  
Principal

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### **Where the Wild Things** presentation today!





One of our home gardens – well done Kasey Hartwell



The start of Zach Snushall's latest exciting story...